1	2
7. Chandigarh	45,000
8. Delhi	8,400
9. Himachal Pradesh	4,64,950
10. Gujarat	100
11. Bihar	1,00,000
12. Karnataka	2,55,000
13. Andhra Pradesh	3,00,000
14. Maharashtra	2,500
15. A & N Island	1,000
16. Assam	900
17. Defence	1,25,100
18. Railway	23,500
TOTAL :	23,08,00

Smuggling of Pentamidine a Drug for Kala Azar

1114. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a racket of pentamidine a drug for Kala-Azar being smuggled to Nepal and again smuggled back into the country for higher prices; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to control this racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Fifty vials of pentamidine drug, valued at Rs. 15,000/- was seized in December, 1990, from a person from Nepal at Jayanagar Railway station, Madhubani District, Bihar. This is the only case noticed so far.

(b) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country, especially in the vulnerable areas of the land borders, has been geared up. Close coordination is being maintained with all agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Setting up of a Mint in Salboni District of West Bengal

1115. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position with regard to the setting up of a Mint at Salboni in Midnapore District of West Bengal;

(b) by when the Mint is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) what will be its capacity of production and the manpower to be employed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is no proposal for setting up of a Mint at Salboni in Midnapore District of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sharavati Tail Race Project in Karnataka

1116. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sharavati Tail Race Project of 24

MW capacity, in Karnataka which is under construction since 1987, is held up on account of some pending environmental issues; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Sharavati Tail Race Project in Karnataka was accorded environmental and forestry clearance in March, 1987 and September, 1986 respectively with certain conditions. Subsequently, a case was filed in the High Court of Karnataka by the local people and environmental groups against the project. The Court ordered review of the clearances given by the Ministry within three months. On a review of the case it was decided to seek six months extension so that response is filed with the High Court by November, 1991. Meanwhile, compliance status of the stipulated conditions is awaited from the project authorities.

Representation by Karnataka Government for increase in Rate of Interest on Small Savings

1117. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has made a representation for increasing the rate of interest on small savings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karnataka Government has made a general suggestion for an increase in the interest rates on small savings schemes.

Creation of Office of Environment Manager

1118. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to make it mandatory for companies to create the office of environment manager; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration. It is also being examined whether it should be mandatory or recommendatory.

Devastation of Villages inhabited by SC in West Bengal

1119. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi of the 9th August, 1991 caption 'Innocent victims of Bengal politics' wherein it has been stated that half a dozen villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes were devastated;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have directed the Government of West Bengal to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.